



RockvilleReports

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Mayor and Council to Consider Voting By Mail

Rockville residents could vote by mail during Mayor and Council elections under a process recommended by the city's Board of Supervisors of Elections.

"Our rationale is to get the ballot to the voter instead of the voter to the ballot," board chair Lois Neuman said in a Nov. 6 presentation to the Mayor and Council.

The Mayor and Council are scheduled to hold a follow-up discussion of the issue on Monday, Jan. 8 and hold a public hearing on Monday, Jan. 22. Anyone wishing to testify at the hearing should call 240-314-8280 before 4 p.m. Jan. 22 to have their names placed on the speakers' list.

When voting by mail, registered voters receive a ballot by mail, mark the ballot, place it into a mailing envelope, sign an affidavit on the exterior of the envelope, which has a trackable bar code, and return the package by mail, at a drop box or in person. The board recommended establishing an Election Day center for voters who choose to vote in person, drop off ballots and interact with election officials.

The new voting process would increase voter turnout by removing obstacles to voting, adding convenience and increasing the options for voters to become involved, Neuman said. Encouraging more people to vote in city elections is a priority for the Mayor and Council this term.

Voting by mail provides more and better ways for voters to vote, Neuman said. Rockville's voter turnout has declined regardless of the number of candidates or ballot questions, from 16.94 percent of registered voters in 2011 to 16.51 percent in 2013 and 15.87 percent in 2015, when the city held its first election to four-year terms. Rockville elects the entire five-member Mayor and Council in nonpartisan elections during years when there are no county, state or federal elections. The next election is in 2019.

At least 22 states allow elections to be conducted by mail, Neuman said. Oregon, Washington and Colorado hold all elections entirely by mail. California will be doing the same beginning in 2018. Maryland allows voting by

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Plan to Attend Rockville 2040 Open House Meetings

Key Plan Ideas to be Discussed, Input Sought

Three meetings in January will allow the public to give further feedback on draft policies and concepts of Rockville 2040, the plan that will shape the city's future.

Following the meetings, the draft plan will be submitted to a formal review process that involves the Planning Commission and Mayor and Council.

Rockville 2040 has been a wide-ranging initiative dedicated to updating the city's Comprehensive Master Plan, and has featured an intensive set of listening sessions and citywide forums, as well as community and stakeholder meetings. The Comprehensive Master Plan's goal is to preserve and improve the quality of life in Rockville by guiding development and conservation, and ensuring that the city can continue to provide high-quality community facilities.

The same information will be discussed at each meeting, allowing attendees to come on the date that best suits their schedules. Rockville staff will

2040

ROCKVILLE

ROCKVILLE 2040 OPEN HOUSES

Three open house meetings will be held this month at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave.:

- 7-9:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11.
- 7-9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16.
- 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 20.

be on hand to discuss key plan ideas and answer questions. The meetings will follow an open house format with maps, charts and displays illustrating topics and concepts.

Visit the Rockville 2040 web page at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville2040 to view presentations and sign up for email updates. For more information, email Ann Wallas at awallas@rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8200. ✚

Rockville Facilities to Close for New Year's and MLK Day

Recycling and Refuse Collected a Day Later During Holiday Weeks

City Hall and all city facilities will be closed for New Year's Day on Monday, Jan. 1.

City Hall and some facilities will also be closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, Jan. 15.

Recycling and refuse will be collected one day later throughout those weeks. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse.

Other city facilities will operate on the following schedule:

- **Croydon Creek Nature Center** will open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 31 and is closed Mondays.
- **Glenview Mansion** is closed Mondays, Jan. 1 and 15.
- The **F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre box office** is closed Jan. 1 and 15. Tickets are always available at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre.
- **Lincoln Park, Thomas Farm and Twinbrook community centers** are open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 31; closed Jan. 1; and open regular hours Jan. 15.

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Stand 'On the Shoulders of Giants' This Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Rockville's 46th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 15 at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive.

The celebration will include multicultural performances, awards and a keynote speech by Marcia Chatelain, an associate professor of history and African-American studies at Georgetown University and the author of "South Side Girls: Growing up in the Great Migration." The program's theme of "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants" will reflect on how today's community leaders demonstrate many of the characteristics of King, to confront challenges and strengthen their community. In addition to the program, there will be information booths



Marcia Chatelain.

from a variety of organizations, with activities and an opportunity to register to vote.

The City of Rockville's Human Rights Commission will present three awards as part of the celebration. The Martin Luther King Jr. Youth

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FIRST IN CLASS FOR KINDNESS... Pictured are winners of Rockville's Kindness Challenge from teacher Carolina DeVriendt's third-grade class of Beall Elementary School. The entire class of 23 students participated to help the school win. Schoolwide, 159 students took part. Beall won \$600 from the city and the Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation to support its students. For the full story, visit RockvilleReports.com and search for "kindness challenge."

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Celebrate Lunar New Year on Feb. 24

Celebrate Rockville's Asian cultures with performances, games, crafts and cultural displays at the city's Lunar New Year celebration. The annual celebration will be held from 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive. Multicultural performances will be from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The city is organizing the celebration in partnership with Rockville's Asian Pacific American Task Force. In its 10th year, the Lunar New Year celebration is a source of pride for the city's Asian community and an opportunity for neighbors to learn about Asian culture. The celebration will mark the year 4716, the Year of the Dog on the Chinese Zodiac calendar. One in three Rockville residents was born outside the United States and 54 percent of the city's foreign-born population was born in Asia, according to the city's planning department. Find additional details, as they become available, at www.rockvillemd.gov/lunarnewyear.

Cops and Conversation That's Off The Cuff (Without Cuffs)

Have Coffee with a Cop
The Rockville City Police Department will meet with community members for its next edition of Coffee with a Cop on Friday, Jan. 5. Officers will be on hand for informal one-on-one chats with community members – no formal speeches, no agendas and no distractions – from 8-9:30 a.m. at The Bean Bag, 1605 E. Gude Drive. All purchases made during the event receive a 10 percent discount. View photos and videos of past Coffee with a Cop events at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville. Learn more at <http://coffeewithacop.com>. The program is part of RCPD's commitment to building trust between neighbors and law enforcement through community policing. It gives community members an opportunity to ask questions, discuss concerns and get to know the men and women who protect and serve our community. Learn more about the RCPD at www.rockvillemd.gov/police.

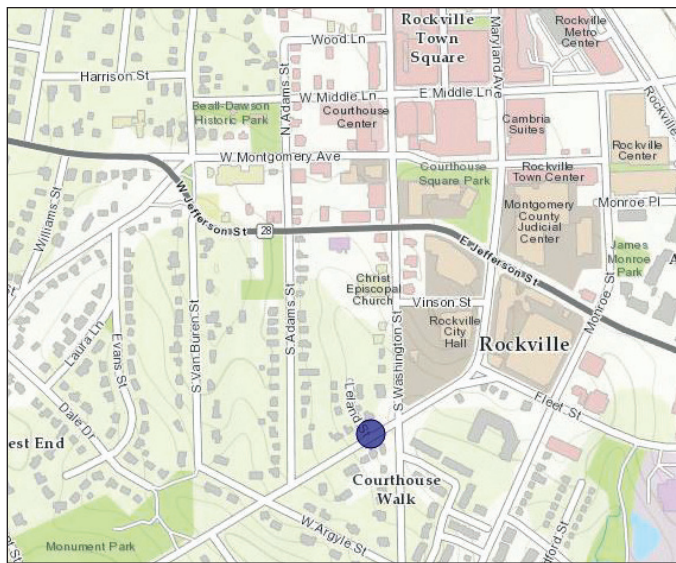


Help the Rockville City Police Department Take the Plunge
Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge
Friday, Jan. 26
Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis
www.plungemd.com
Search "RCPD" to Pledge in Support of Rockville's Plunge Team and Special Olympics Maryland

Slow Study: City's Newest Speed Cameras Prove Effective

Maryland Avenue Cameras are Issuing Fewer Citations

A year into their use, speed cameras on Maryland Avenue have proven effective in reducing speeding and increasing safety. Citations issued in the unit block of eastbound Maryland Avenue (traveling toward Rockville Town Center from Interstate 270) have decreased by more than two-thirds, from a high of 2,494 in February – the first month after a 30-day warning period – to just 799 in November. Citations westbound on the street decreased by 62 percent – from a high of 1,358 in March to 512 in November. The speed camera program, authorized by the Maryland General Assembly, allows municipalities to use speed cameras on residential roads and in school zones where the posted speed limit is 35 mph or less and to issue tickets for violations when vehicles are traveling at least 12 mph over the limit. In accordance with state law, excess revenues generated by the program are earmarked for pedestrian safety improvements. Rockville has used speed camera revenue for accessible pedestrian signals, bridge rehabilitation, upgraded traffic control signals, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant ramps, sidewalks and streetlight improvements. While fewer citations mean less revenue, safety, not revenue, is the goal, said Maj. Michael England, who oversees the department's speed camera program. "Our goal remains to reduce speed to lessen the number of accidents attributed to speed," England said. "If an accident occurs, for one reason or another, lower speeds tend to result in no injuries or less severe injuries." Rockville operates 17 speed cameras within the city limits, including nine portable cameras, six fixed cameras and two mobile speed vans. Learn more about the speed camera program's goals and camera locations by visiting www.rockvillemd.gov/speedcameras or viewing a "Rock 11 Now Weekly" report at www.rockvillemd.gov/youtube. Search "speed cameras." ❖



A Slower (and Safer) Maryland

Speed camera citations have decreased since the cameras were first deployed one year ago on Maryland Avenue near Rockville Town Center.

Maryland Avenue – Eastbound Lane (Months are 2017)												
Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Citations	Warning 2494	2355	2050	1566	2059	1419	1238	1260	1292	799	TBD	
Issued	Period											

Maryland Avenue – Westbound Lane (Months are 2017)												
Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Citations	Warning 1096	1358	1011	555	713	367	269	478	577	512	TBD	
Issued	Period											

Source: Rockville City Police Department.

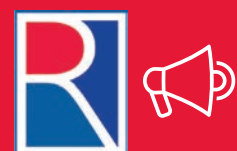


Albert Budd Honored with Bill Mason Award

Albert Budd "Frog" was honored with the Bill Mason Award for Outstanding Performance on Dec. 7 during the city's annual awards ceremony celebrating the service of City of Rockville employees. Budd, a maintenance worker in the city's Department of Public Works, was nominated by members of AFSCME Local 1453. With more than 40 years of experience in all areas of the city's utilities division, Budd was recognized for his willingness to teach and help co-workers complete tasks safely and correctly. In presenting the award, AFSCME Local 1453 President Jerrod Johnson said Budd "exemplifies the best qualities of the Bill Mason Award." He praised Budd's work ethic, including his habit of arriving to work early and staying late, whenever needed, in all types of weather. At year's end, Budd has always accrued more annual leave than he can roll over, Johnson said. The award is named for the late William "Bill" Mason, who served as an example of outstanding performance and dedicated service to the City of Rockville. The award recognizes a hardworking employee who has demonstrated exceptionally high-quality service, straightforwardness, willingness to go the extra mile and exceptional attendance. ❖



TIME SERVED... Rockville recognized its employees for length of service at an awards ceremony in December. Anniversaries for each five years of service were celebrated. At top, John Davis (Public Works) received an award for 35 years of service. Pictured with their 30-year service awards are Farron Young (Recreation and Parks), William Moore (Public Works); Steve Mader (Recreation and Parks); and Susan Fournier (Public Works). Not pictured: Margaret Hall (Community Planning and Development Services).



SMOKE ALARM ALERT... If you haven't replaced your smoke alarms to comply with a new state law, now could be the time (or possibly past time)! State law calls for older smoke alarms to be replaced with new, sealed, long-life battery-powered smoke alarms by Jan. 1, 2018. Requirements vary based on when your house was built. Learn more at <http://bit.ly/smokealarmlaw> and <http://rockvillereports.com/dont-fall-back-on-a-faulty-smoke-detector>.

Mayor & Council

mayorcouncil@rockvillemd.gov



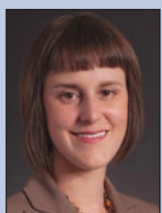
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Meetings: Mondays, Jan. 8 and 22 at 7 p.m. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. Drop-in sessions are held monthly at 5:30 p.m. in the Mayor and Council office. No appointment necessary. Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton is joined by Councilmember Virginia D. Onley on Jan. 8.

Get Involved with the City

Stay informed of the business before city leaders and share your thoughts:

- **Follow the action in person:** Meetings are at 7 p.m. on most Mondays, at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., or follow from home on channel 11. Meetings are also available via live streaming, and on demand the day after the meeting, at www.rockvillemd.gov/rockville11.
- **Stop by a drop-in session:** The mayor and one councilmember meet with community members one Monday each month from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Find the drop-in schedule at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil.
- **Speak at Community Forum** (up to three minutes): Community Forum is held during each Mayor and Council meeting. Priority is given to speakers who have signed up in advance by calling 240-314-8280 by 4 p.m. on the day of the meeting, and to those who are speaking on an agenda item.
- **Send an email** to mayorandcouncil@rockvillemd.gov.

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Mayor and Council Want Public's Comments on Proposed Water and Sewer Rates

Hearing is Part of Ongoing FY 2019 Budget Discussions

A public hearing on Monday, Jan. 8 will give community members the opportunity to provide feedback about proposed water and sewer rates.

City staff detailed the proposed rates during a presentation to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 11. Under a three-year plan, the quarterly bill for a typical residential customer would increase by \$15.77 in Fiscal Year 2019, \$16.93 in FY 2020 and \$17.96 in FY 2021.

The Mayor and Council approved a rate restructuring plan in 2015 to address deficits in the city's water and sewer funds. While the plan has moved the funds in a positive direction, they continue to run deficits. The sewer fund is projected to fall short of its FY 2021 reserve target, predominantly due to increases in required operating and capital contributions to the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Facility. The proposed

plan would restore reserves to recommended levels by the end of FY 2021 for the water fund and FY 2023 for the sewer fund.

Find details on the proposed rates, the consultant's report and video of the consultant's presentation with the Dec. 11 Mayor and Council agenda at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

Anyone wishing to testify at the hearing should call 240-314-8280 before 4 p.m. Jan. 8 to have their names placed on the speakers' list. The Mayor and Council will vote on the proposal as part of the budget process.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/budget to learn more about the budget process, and to use the city's online survey to identify priorities for the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program for FY19, which begins July 1.

For more information, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ❖

Upcoming Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Calendar

Jan. 8	Water and Sewer Rate Public Hearing
Feb. 26	Presentation of FY 2019 Proposed Budget
March 5	Mayor and Council Budget Work Session
March 19	Budget Public Hearing
April 9	Budget Public Hearing
April 13	Budget Public Record Closes
April 23	Mayor and Council Budget Work Session
May 14	Adoption of the FY 2019 Budget

Meet and Greet District 17's Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly

Mix, mingle and chat with the senator and delegates who represent District 17 in the Maryland General Assembly. The Monday, Jan. 29 event, held in Annapolis, is sponsored by the four-person District 17 delegation.

Rockville will provide two buses to transport the Mayor and Council, city staff and residents who would like to attend the meet and greet. Seats are available to Rockville residents on a first-come, first-served basis. The buses will leave from the main entrance of City Hall at about 4:30 p.m., and will depart Annapolis by 8:30 p.m. to return to City Hall at about 9:30 p.m. All Rockville residents are welcome to attend and may use their own transportation.

The meet and greet will

be held from 6-8 p.m., in the Miller Senate Office Building, Suite West 1 and 2, with a buffet catered by Dawson's Market.

District 17 delegation members will provide brief remarks and the group will walk across the street to the State House session.

District 17 covers Rockville and Gaithersburg. It is represented by Sen. Cheryl C. Kagan and delegates Kumar P. Barve, James W. Gilchrist and Andrew Platt. The 438th Maryland General Assembly session convenes at noon, Wednesday, Jan. 10.

To reserve a seat, call the City Clerk/Director of Council Operations Office at 240-314-8280 or email cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov. ❖

FY 2017 Financial Reports Highlight City's 'Solid Financial Position'

Summaries Give Public a Look at the City's Fiscal Health

Two annual reports that city staff delivered to the Mayor and Council on Dec. 11 give the public a closer look at Rockville's financial health during the most recently completed fiscal year.

For Fiscal Year 2017, which closed June 30, the city ended "with an overall net position of \$348.8 million, an increase of 4 percent over last year," City Manager Rob DiSpirito wrote in the city's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR), a summary document highlighting the city's finances.

In May, two rating agencies reaffirmed the city's triple-A bond rating and expressed confidence in the city's financial outlook. Triple-A is the highest possible rating and saves Rockville taxpayers money by allowing the city to borrow at the lowest possible interest rates.

"Rockville's solid financial position and conservative financial management practices helped us to afford several new initiatives during FY 2017, including the acquisition of three properties for recreation purposes," DiSpirito wrote. "In our current FY 2018 budget, city staff are actively working to address the needs of the Rockville community, and to implement the Mayor and Council's top priority initiatives. We also seek new ways to be efficient, and have not raised property taxes in 10 years!"

The city created the first PAFR in 2007 as a way to explain, in layman's terms, the information contained in Rockville's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The CAFR is prepared by the Finance Department in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and audited by certified public accountants. The PAFR is not a replacement for the CAFR, but rather a supplemental document to help the public review the city's financial operations.

The FY17 PAFR describes:

- The city government and

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- **Testify at a hearing** or in writing to cityclerk@rockvillemd.gov or by mail to the City Clerk's Office, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.
- **Volunteer** to be on a board or commission. (Learn more below.) Find other ways to give your time and talents to your community at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer.

Boards and Commissions

Anyone interested in serving on a board or commission may write to: Mayor and Council, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, call 240-314-8280, or fill out and submit an expression of interest form at www.rockvillemd.gov/boardscommissions. The webpage also includes schedules and cancellations, and contact information.

Note: Meetings are held at City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., unless otherwise noted.

- **Jan. 2 Asian Pacific American Task Force** 7:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 3 Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee** 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 4 Environment Commission** 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 10 Cultural Arts Commission** 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 17 Rockville Sister City** 7 p.m.
- **Jan. 24 Planning Commission** 7 p.m.*
- **Jan. 24 Human Rights Commission** 7:30 p.m.
- **Jan. 25 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board** 7 p.m., Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive

*Televised on Rockville 11.

Vacancies

The Mayor and Council are seeking applicants for the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Appeals (1 regular/1 alt.)
- Board of Supervisors of Elections (1)
- Cultural Arts Commission (2)
- Environment Commission (1)
- Historic District Commission (1 regular/1 alt.)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (1)
- Planning Commission (1)
- Recreation and Parks Advisory Board (1)
- Senior Citizens Commission (2)
- Sign Review Board (1 regular/1 alt.)
- Traffic and Transportation Commission (1)



STAY INFORMED: The Mayor and Council meeting schedule and agendas can be found at www.rockvillemd.gov/mayorcouncil. Staff reports with background information are included with the agendas, which are posted several days before each meeting. Sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/notifyme to receive an email or text message when a new agenda is posted.



LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11

www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

Path to Connect Falls Road Schools, Bus Route

The city is expected to complete construction this winter on a missing segment of a shared-use path that will improve pedestrian and bicycle safety along the east side of Falls Road between Dunster and Kimblewick roads.

This segment of Falls Road requires walking on a shoulder that is about 1 foot wide, or through grass. Bicycling requires using the lane of a busy arterial road. The shared-use path will provide a safer route for nonmotorized users connecting to Ritchie Park Elementary School, St. Raphael Catholic Church and School, and a Metrobus line along the east side of Falls Road.

Construction is ongoing along state right of way and does not impact any homes or buildings. Impacts are limited to periodic lane closures on Falls Road through the construction zone.

The project is a part of the city's efforts to create a continuous recreation and transportation system in Rockville.



Be Your Best You in 2018 at the Swim and Fitness Center

Looking to get or stay fit in 2018? Whatever your goals, the Rockville Swim and Fitness Center has the program for you.

Year-round programming includes yoga, Zumba, triathlon training and water aerobics. The center also has an elite learn-to-swim program for all ages — parent and child classes start at 6 months — and even learn-to-swim classes for adults.

Not into working out alone, or looking for new exercises to invigorate your workout? The center has certified personal trainers on staff who can discuss your fitness goals.

Visit the center for a tour. Our knowledgeable staff is happy to answer any questions about the facility.

The next session of classes is scheduled to begin Jan. 6. Registration is already open.

To find Rockville Swim and Fitness Center classes and register, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration and choose "Select Locations," then "Rockville Swim and Fitness Center." For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter.

New Life for Christmas Trees

The city collects Christmas trees and takes them to the Montgomery County Recycling Center, 16105 Frederick Road, where they become mulch that is free year-round.

Remove all ornaments and metals, wires, stands and decorations, including tinsel, and place trees at the curb on regular recycling and refuse collection days. Trees should not be bagged. There is no collection deadline.

Artificial trees should be placed in the gray refuse cart for regular collection, or can be collected by appointment as one of six bulk collections allowed per year or taken to the transfer station.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/bulkrefuse.



Arlington County Board Chair Jay Fissette, City of Rockville Mayor and Transportation Planning Board Chairman Bridget Donnell Newton, and COG Executive Director Chuck Bean. (Photo courtesy Laura Ambrosiol Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments.)

Mayor Newton Receives Prestigious Public Service Award

Scull Award Recognizes Regional-Level Leadership

City of Rockville Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton received the Elizabeth and David Scull Metropolitan Public Service Award from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments on Dec. 13.

The Scull award is given to a local, state or federal elected official who demonstrates leadership at the regional level. It is named after the late Montgomery County councilmembers, who were strong supporters of COG and regional cooperation.

For the past year, Newton has served as chair of the Transportation Planning Board at COG. Newton led the board's partnership with the COG board of directors to advance new funding for Metro.

Additionally, Newton supported the transition from the TPB's Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan to Visualize 2045, a new plan that will show all significant transportation

investments planned in the region through 2045. Under her leadership, a TPB task force identified a set of projects, programs and policies, beyond those in official plans, that the region could implement to better address long-term transportation challenges.

Newton was one of three local leaders recognized for their partnership, collaboration and service to the metropolitan Washington region. DC Water CEO and General Manager George Hawkins received the Ronald F. Kirby Award for Collaborative Leadership and the Coalition for Smarter Growth received the Regional Partnership Award, which is presented to organizations or individuals who have worked with COG to improve the quality of life for area residents.

Learn more about the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments at www.mwcog.org.

Mayor and Council to Mull Changes to Pike Plan

Rockville's Mayor and Council are scheduled to introduce zoning amendments that implement land-use policies included in the Rockville Pike Neighborhood Plan at their Monday, Jan. 8 meeting.

At their Monday, Dec. 11 meeting, the Mayor and Council directed staff to draft another amendment that would allow the Mayor and Council to increase the ground-floor area of a retail or commercial use within a Champion Project up to 100,000 square feet, 35,000

more square feet than is currently allowed for a single tenant.

Champion Projects are development projects established in the Rockville Pike Neighborhood Plan with specific criteria, such as being located in a defined area known as the South Pike. The pike plan was adopted by the Mayor and Council in 2016.

For more information about the Rockville Pike Plan, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/rockvillepike.

Mayor and Council Vote to Ban Use of Polystyrene

The Mayor and Council voted unanimously on a proposed ban in the City of Rockville on the use of polystyrene in food plates, trays, containers or in loose fill for shipping packages.

The ban, which will take effect on Jan. 1, 2019, potentially affects about 400 restaurants and food service establishments and several shipping businesses in the city. It is an extension of a ban that took effect in Montgomery County in 2016.

Polystyrene is a petroleum-derived plastic that can be molded into various shapes and forms. It is often mistakenly called "Styrofoam," which is a name, trademarked by the Dow Chemical Company, for certain types of building materials and pipe insulation.

Polystyrene has historically been used for plates, clamshell containers, hot and cold beverage cups, meat and vegetable trays, and egg cartons. Its manufacturing process generates the fifth-largest amount of hazardous wastes in the United

States.

Although polystyrene breaks down into small pellets, it never fully degrades. Because it is lightweight, it can be easily carried on the wind or float long distances in rivers and streams. It is the second-most common type of beach litter, making up as much as one-fifth of the stormwater debris recovered from waterways through stream clean ups.

The City of Rockville collects used polystyrene as part of its weekly refuse collection and takes it, along with other household refuse, for disposal in the county's waste-to-energy incinerator.

The ordinance banning polystyrene was introduced Nov. 6. For a staff report and the Mayor and Council's discussion of the proposal, find video of the Nov. 6 and Dec. 11 meetings at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter.

For more information, call Mark Charles, the city's chief of environmental management, at 240-314-8871.

Villages Movement Accelerates

A year after she was hired to help implement senior villages in Rockville, City of Rockville Villages Facilitator Trish Evans told the Mayor and Council in a December update that four organizations are emerging, with two more potentially forming before the end of 2018.

Villages are grassroots,

volunteer-led, neighbor-support networks created to provide assistance to seniors, enabling them to continue living in their own homes. Villages are self-governing organizations, each unique to the community it serves. In 2010, the U.S. had 35 recognized operational villages. By 2016, that number had risen to 160,

many in the D.C.-metro area.

Villages are in formation in Rockville's West End, East Rockville, Twinbrook and King Farm. Additionally, a nonprofit umbrella organization dedicated to the development and support of villages was formed recently — Rockville Area Villages Exchange, Inc.

Evans said she is hard at work supporting the villages movement

throughout Rockville.

"Anything they can ask, I will seek it out and I will try and find it," Evans told the Mayor and Council. "That goes for all the villages and is the message I've been trying to get out around the city."

For more information, contact City of Rockville Village Facilitator Trish Evans at 240-314-8807 or pevans@rockvillemd.gov, or visit www.rockvillemd.gov/villages.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN WATCHING ON YOUTUBE... Rockville 11's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/cityofrockville) summed up an eventful 2017 for Rockville's sister city relationship with Pinneberg, Germany, which celebrated its 60th anniversary. You can also find out about Mayor Bridget Donnell Newton's award from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (and read the article about it on this page). Finally, take a look back at 2017 with "Rock 11 Now Weekly's Year in Review" debuting at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 29 on Rockville 11.

Rockville Seeks Environmentalists to Be Recognized During Earth Month

Deadline for Nominations for Environmental Excellence Awards is Feb. 22

The City of Rockville's Environmental Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that contribute to Rockville's environmental health and sustainability.

Nominations are being accepted in the following categories through 5 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 22, for awards to be presented during Earth Month in April:

- Outstanding Individual Environmental Stewardship.
- Outstanding Leadership in Environmental Practices.
- Outstanding Achievement in Green Building Technology/Design.
- Outstanding Environmental Education and Academic Achievement.

Eligible individuals must live, work or study within the city. Eligible organizations must have an office in Rockville or must be able to demonstrate significant operations within the city limits. Building projects considered as part of a nomination must be within the city.

The awards are presented to an individual or organization by the Mayor and Council. Nominations and supplemental materials are received by the Environment Commission, which review the materials and recommend awards to the Mayor and Council.

For more information about the award categories and guidelines, application forms and eligibility, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/environment/awards, email environment@rockvillemd.gov, or call 240-314-8870. ❄️

Winter is coming! And snow!

Is your **Alert Rockville** account current?


Don't have an **Alert Rockville** account?

Get one at www.rockvillemd.gov/alerts.

Receive public safety, traffic and severe weather notifications from the City of Rockville.

Rockville Recycles:

Newspapers, bottles, cans (including empty aerosol cans) and cardboard. Rigid plastics, including toys, buckets, flower pots, laundry baskets and clothes hangers. Wax-coated milk and juice boxes, all junk mail (including those with plastic windows), catalogs and pizza boxes with minor grease.



When snow leads to cancellations of city programs and/or facility closures, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/weather for the latest information.

City crews treat and plow roads in the following priority order:

1. Primary roads that consist of major arterial roads, emergency routes, central business districts and primary residential roads near schools.
2. Secondary roads that consist of the remainder of neighborhood streets, alleyways and cul-de-sacs.

To check whether an address is within the city limits, visit the Address and Residency Check Map at www.rockvillemd.gov/maps.

Snow Emergency: Parking Restrictions and Plowing

Being In-the-Know Can Help the City Clear Snow Quickly

Rockville experienced just one storm last winter that brought enough significant, deep snow to lead the city manager to declare a snow emergency. The March 14-15 snow emergency declaration lasted just 26 hours.

But it was just two years ago when the "Snowzilla" storm dumped nearly 30 inches of snow on the city, led to a snow emergency that spanned more than a week and served as a reminder of the big job a snow storm can mean for city crews.

Once a snow emergency is declared, pay special attention to email notices, to the city's website for periodic storm response reports and to Facebook and Twitter for updates. Learn how to connect through social media and email updates at www.rockvillemd.gov/connections.

The city's snow emergency ordinance states:

- The city manager may invoke snow emergency parking restrictions.
- The city may remove or impound cars improperly parked.
- Residents with driveways must park all vehicles there.
- Residents without driveways, or who have more vehicles than will fit in the driveway, may park on the even-numbered side of the street only.
- In courts or cul-de-sacs, where house numbers are not even on one side of the street and odd on the other, parking is allowed only on the left side of the streets as one enters the cul-de-sac or court.
- No parking is allowed in the bulb of the cul-de-sac or court.
- A \$100 fine may be incurred for a snow emergency parking violation.

Learn more about how Rockville responds to winter weather at www.rockvillemd.gov/winterweather and in the "Rock 11 Now Weekly" report at www.youtube.com/cityofrockville. Search "Snow 2017."

For more information, call 240-314-8500. ❄️

Go Solar for Energy Savings

Building on the success of the previous two years, the Rockville Environment Commission is again partnering with nonprofit Solar United Neighbors (formerly MD SUN) on a third solar co-op.

Rockville's participation in solar co-ops helped 63 homeowners in 2015, and 88 homeowners in 2016, go solar. Homeowners who join the Montgomery County Solar Co-op find going solar easier. Participants receive technical assistance and guidance throughout the process so that they can feel confident about their investment.

While each participant signs an independent contract with the installer for their own system, they band together to negotiate a volume discount and reduce the total cost of installation. The co-op may offer free solar educational workshops, free preliminary site assessments to determine whether a home is suitable for solar, competitively selected contractors with set prices and a limited-time offer to get the best deal on solar.

Information sessions are scheduled across the county in the coming weeks. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/solarhomes.



Green Thumbed or Not, Rockville has Garden Plots

Check your thumb. Is it green? Perhaps you have a knack for gardening, but not the space, and are ready to move onto something a little more challenging than your window box.

The City of Rockville has 178 garden plots, measuring 20-by-25 feet, available for rent at Woottons Mill Park (on Hurley Avenue) where you can test your gardening chops.

The cost is \$55 for Rockville residents, \$80 for nonresidents. Registration for the garden plot program opens Jan. 2 and the season runs from April 1-Nov. 11.

The city provides six water spigots throughout the garden area. Gardeners are responsible for fencing, weed barriers, hoses, tools and other gardening supplies.


Registration forms will be posted at www.rockvillemd.gov/gardenplots in January. Call the Rockville Civic Center at 240-314-8660 for more information.

Recycling and Refuse Collections Take a Holiday

The city's recycling and refuse collections usually occur Monday through Thursday. If a city holiday falls during the week (Monday-Thursday), all recycling and refuse collections scheduled on or after the holiday will be made one day later than usual that week.

Holiday	2018	Collection Changes
New Year's Day	Jan. 1 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	Jan. 15 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Presidents Day	Feb. 19 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Memorial Day	May 28 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Independence Day	July 4 (Wednesday)	Monday and Tuesday collections occur as usual. All other collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Labor Day	Sept. 3 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Columbus Day	Oct. 8 (Monday)	No changes. Collections occur as usual this week.
Veterans Day OBSERVED	Nov. 12 (Monday)	All collections occur one day later than usual this week.
Thanksgiving Day	Nov. 22 (Thursday)	Thursday collections occur Friday. No other changes this week.
Christmas Day	Dec. 25 (Tuesday)	Monday collections occur Monday. All other collections occur one day later than usual this week.

Find 2018 holiday collection schedule calendars for each collection day at www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse

www.rockvillemd.gov/recycling-refuse • 240-314-8568

Attention Dog Owners



Your dog did his duty, please do yours.

Clean up after your dog.



WHAT'S GOING ON? ... Wondering what's happening around town? Sign up for "This Week in Rockville," the city's weekly e-newsletter roundup of Rockville events, delivered to your inbox every Thursday. Find it and sign up at www.rockvillemd.gov/thisweek.

Wine and Foreign Film Series to Show 'Mozart's Sister'

"Mozart's Sister" will be the next showing in the Glenview Mansion's Wine and Foreign Film series.

The mansion's doors open at 6:45 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16. The film begins promptly at 7:15 p.m. This 21-and-older event is free, with wine on sale at \$3 per glass. No tickets or reservations required.

"Variety" has called "Mozart's Sister," which tells the story of the composer's talented sister, Marie Anna "Nannerl" Mozart, "lively and fascinating" and "a treat for classical music lovers and cinephiles alike."

Glenview Mansion is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. Free, well-lit parking is available.

Sing with the Rockville Chorus

The Rockville Chorus will hold auditions Monday evening, Jan. 8, in the social hall of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre.

The Rockville Chorus, entertaining in and around Rockville for 45 years, is a community chorus under the direction of Bryan Seith.

Call or email Arts Program Specialist Julie Farrell to schedule your painless audition: 240-314-8682 or jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov. For more on the chorus, visit rockvillechorus.com.

Stay Healthy at the Senior Center this January

Rockville Senior Center has several presentations in January to help seniors stay happy and healthy.

All sessions are from 1-2 p.m. in the center's Azalea Room.

Senior Smile: Thursday, Jan. 4. A free discussion of seniors' dental needs. Register with course #2804.

How to Stay Healthy, Happy and at Home: Tuesday, Jan. 16. Discuss the physiological and health implications of chronic stress on seniors' lives, safety precautions and community resources for seniors to avoid moving into a nursing home prematurely. Register with course #2795.

Caring for Osteoarthritis and Knee Pain: Thursday, Jan. 18. Explore the causes of osteoarthritis, long-term consequences of arthritis pain and advances in osteoarthritis treatment of knees, shoulders and hips. Register with course #2794.

Healthy Skin and Skin Cancer Awareness: Wednesday, Jan. 24. A presentation on the definition of skin cancer, self-diagnosis and treatment options. Register with course #2799.

Shingles: More Than a Rash: Thursday, Jan. 25. Learn about the causes, signs, symptoms, treatments and prevention of shingles. Register with course #2787.

Register for all programs at the Senior Center Info Desk, by calling 240-314-8810 or at www.rockvillemd.gov/registration. Find the "Adults 60+ Recreation and Services Guide" at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide.

Rockville Recreation and Parks Foundation



A 501(c)3 organization established to:

- Improve recreational activities, programs, parks and facilities.
- Support the Rockville Youth Recreation Fund.
- Assist with fundraising, the acquisition and

maintenance of new parks and open space.

- Purchase equipment and other amenities for the City's parks and facilities.



Please send your tax deductible gift to:
200-B Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850
www.rrpfi.org • 240-314-8867

F. Scott Theater Wins Best of the County for Community Theater

RLT, VLOC and Concert Band to Perform in January and February

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre was awarded a Best of Montgomery County — Community Theater 2017 Readers' Award by "Montgomery Magazine" in December, proving that nobody does community theater like the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. And when better than January and February to take in a show?

Here's what's coming up soon at the F. Scott:

The F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre will be closed for annual maintenance Jan. 2-12. The box office will be open 2-7 p.m., Tuesday-Friday during that time.

"The Underpants," presented by Rockville Little Theatre.

By Carl Sternheim, adapted by Steve Martin. Directed by Karen Fleming. A couple's conservative life is changed by a flash of underwear — but not in the way they expect. Instead it introduces them to two characters with amorous intentions. An entertaining, multi-layered farce. 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, Jan. 26, 27, Feb. 2 and 3; 2 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 28 and Feb. 4. Tickets cost \$22 for adults; seniors (62 and older) and students are \$20.



"Passages — The Journey of our Ancestors," presented by the Tamburitzans.

The Tamburitzans of Pittsburgh celebrate their 81st season by sharing world culture brought to America through immigration, including Croatia, Serbia, Romania, Greece, Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Spain, Cuba, Mexico and European Roma cultures. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10. Premium adult tickets are \$40; premium tickets for seniors/students/children, \$35. Standard adult tickets cost \$37; standard seniors/students/child, \$32.

"Annual Swinging Sunday," presented by the Rockville Concert Band.

Sunday, Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. No tickets required; \$5 suggested donation. With guest ensemble, the Rockville Swing Band. Conducted by Assistant Music Director Douglas Pierce. Learn more about the concert band at www.rockvilleconcertband.org.



"The Merry Widow," presented by the Victorian Lyric Opera Company.

Hanna Glawari is a famous, wealthy widow from a fictional eastern European country whose ambassador attempts to find her a new husband and keep her fortune in the country, saving it from bankruptcy. Complicating matters? Hanna's unexpected reunion with a former admirer and the flirtation of the ambassador's wife with a young Frenchman. 8 p.m. Feb. 23 and 24, and March 2 and 3; 2 p.m. Feb. 25 and March 4. On Feb. 23, the opening night special ticket price is \$14. Pre-show backstage tour and post-show Q&A on Feb. 25. Tickets for adults are \$28; \$24 for seniors (65 and older); and \$20 for students.

The theater is located at 603 Edmonston Drive. Buy tickets at www.rockvillemd.gov/theatre, by phone at 240-314-8690 or in person at the box office. ❖

Connect with us on Social Media.



WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING THIS MONTH? Happy New Year (that's one thing)! January also marks National Mentoring Month, National Healthy Weight Awareness Month, Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and Stalking Awareness Month. But did you also know Jan. 2 is both National Cream Puff Day and Science Fiction Day (unrelated)? And Jan. 3 is National Chocolate Covered Cherry Day? You can also celebrate Popcorn Day (Jan. 19), Hug Day (Jan. 21), Hot Sauce Day (Jan. 22) and Pie Day (Jan. 23). Also, more seriously, Jan. 13 is Korean-American Day and Jan. 15 is Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Beau Soir Ensemble to Entertain at Gallery Exhibition Opener

Flute, harp and viola trio, The Beau Soir Ensemble, will entertain during the Sunday, Feb. 7 opening reception for the next exhibition at the Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

On display will be the Hope Chinese School's traditional brush painting, Gloria Miotto's abstract paintings and the photography of Meryl Silver. The opening reception begins at 1:30 p.m. Beau Soir's performance be-

gins at 2 p.m.

The opening reception and concert are free and open to the public, no tickets or reservations required.

The ADA-accessible gallery is free to visit and open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on Thursday. Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/glenviewgallery. ❖

Student Art Show at Glenview Mansion Gallery Seeks Entries

Rockville students — start getting your art ready! The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery is inviting you to submit drawings, paintings and sculpture to Rockville's Annual Student Art Show.

This popular yearly show, held in partnership with the Rockville Art League, features artwork from Rockville students in grades K-12. Students who live or attend school in Rockville may deliver one 2-D or 3-D art piece for display in the gallery. All artwork is displayed, and works from students in grades 4-12 will be judged

for ribbons in the categories of Hometown; Earth, Wind and Fire; STEAM; Box Smasher and Dazzle.

Delivery and registration for artwork is 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4. The show's opening reception, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, will feature live entertainment by Bones Jones Music. The exhibition will run until March 12.

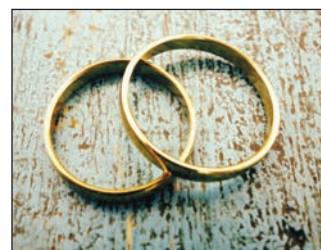
For a registration form and additional details, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/studentartshow. For more information, contact Julie Farrell at jfarrell@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8682. ❖

19th Annual Wedding Expo Will Help Make Your Big Day More Magical

Your wedding is one of the most special days of your life. Make it even more so with the professional help available at Glenview Mansion's 19th Annual Wedding Expo. Meet and connect with more than 30 vendors who can help you plan the big day.

The expo will be held from 1-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28 at the mansion, located in Rockville Civic Center Park, at 603 Edmonston Drive.

The expo will feature how to create a unique, customized wedding plan using advice from experts in catering, wedding cakes, photography, musical entertainment, floral arrangements and tent options.



Tour the historic Glenview Mansion, which is itself a wedding and special events venue, with formal gardens, an art gallery, cottage and more.

Entry to the expo is \$5 (cash only) at the door. For more information, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/glenview, "like" the Glenview Mansion Weddings and Special Events on Facebook or call 240-314-8660. ❖

January CALENDAR

CC Croydon Creek Nature Ctr., 852 Avery Rd., 240-314-8770.
GM Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8660.
FSF F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Dr., 240-314-8690.

LP Lincoln Park Community Ctr., 357 Frederick Ave., 240-314-8780.
CH Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Ave., 240-314-5000.
SR Rockville Senior Ctr., 1150 Carnation Dr., 240-314-8800.

FACILITIES LEGEND:

SFC Rockville Swim and Fitness Ctr., 355 Martins Lane, 240-314-8750.
TF Thomas Farm Community Ctr., 700 Falls Grove Dr., 240-314-8840.
TC Twinbrook Comm. Rec. Ctr., 12920 Twinbrook Pkwy., 240-314-8830.



JAN 7



JAN 6



JAN 28



2040 ROCKVILLE

Comprehensive Master Plan OPEN HOUSE

Help to shape Rockville's future

THREE DIFFERENT TIMES TO ATTEND:
Thursday, Jan. 11 from 7-9:30 p.m. **or**
Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 7-9:30 p.m. **or**
Saturday, Jan. 20 from 9 a.m.-noon
at Rockville City Hall,
111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD

JAN 11, 16, 20



JAN 26, 27, 28



JAN 28

Glenview
Mansion
Wedding Expo

5 **COFFEE WITH A COP.** See article on page 2.

6 **WINTER LIFEGUARD TRAINING REVIEW CLASS.** Students registering for a re-certification class must present their American Red Cross certification card during the first session. Certifications must be current in order to take part in a re-certification class and students must bring their CPR masks to class. Register with course #2060. 3-10:30 p.m. **SFC**

7 **ART AND MUSIC — OPENING RECEPTION AND SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT.** Start your new year with exciting art! The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery hosts an eclectic display featuring Gloria Miotto's large abstract paintings; Hope Chinese School's traditional brush painting; and Meryl Silver's photography. The Beau Soir Ensemble will ring in the new year on harp, viola and flute. 1:30-3:30 p.m. **GM**

8 **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING.** Look for agenda updates at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. 7 p.m. **CH**

9, 23 **CANCER SUPPORT GROUP.** A psychoeducational support group for those with cancer or who are impacted by a loved one's cancer. Discussions include coping with the diagnosis and treatment; interacting with the health-care industry; and supporting and being supported by loved ones. Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Register with course #2856. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

11, 16, 20 **ROCKVILLE 2040 OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS.** See article on page 1. **CH**

11, 25 **MILD COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENT (MCI).** This psychoeducational therapy group addresses what MCI is, why it is and how to cope with it, including tools to help compensate. Group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Register with course #2857. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

13 **EXEM ENTERTAINMENT COMEDY WOMAN.** 8 p.m. Tickets: <https://showbirzha.com>. **FSF**

15 **MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CELEBRATION.** See article on page 1. FREE.

16 **CAMPS REGISTRATION BEGINS.** See article on page 8.

16 **HOW TO TALK SO KIDS WILL LISTEN.** Learn how to communicate more effectively with children: cope with negative feelings, engage willing cooperation, discipline without hurting or alienating, develop your child's positive and realistic self-image, foster a family atmosphere of love and respect. \$75 R/\$80 NR. Register with course #416124. 7 p.m. **SR**

16 **WINTER BLUES.** This psychoeducational therapy group address seasonal depression, why it occurs and what to do about it. Register with course #2855. Group meets on first and third Tuesdays after Jan. 16. 1-2:30 p.m. **SR**

16 **WINE AND FOREIGN FILM SERIES.** "Mozart's Sister" will be shown, café style, in the conservatory. See article on page 6. **GM**

18 **LITTLE ACORNS: EXPLORING ICE.** For ages 18-36 months. Explore nature with your little ones through a variety of play-based activities. Time will be spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Register for course #2812. 10-11 a.m. **CC**

19 **LATE NIGHT.** For grades 3-8. An evening of playing in the gymnasium, hanging out with friends, listening to music and playing video games. Refreshments will be sold. Register for course #3615. \$12R/\$14NR. 7-9 p.m. **TF**

22 **MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING.** Look for agenda updates at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. 7 p.m. **CH**

24 **WILD ABOUT ART.** Ages 2-5 years. Children become naturally creative through a variety of process art-based projects. Each session includes two to three art experiences. Dress for a mess! Adult participation required. Register for course #2809. \$6R/\$7NR. 10-10:45 a.m. **CC**

26, 27, 28 **"THE UNDERPANTS," PRESENTED BY ROCKVILLE LITTLE THEATRE.** A couple's conservative life is changed by a flash of underwear — but not in the way they expect. A farce that entertains at many levels. By Carl Sternheim; adapted by Steve Martin; directed by Karen Fleming. 8-10 p.m., Jan. 26 and 27; 2-4 p.m. **FSF**

27 **NATURE TOTS: NATURE DETECTIVES.** Ages 2-5 years. Discover the wonders of nature with your child. Each session, a naturalist delves into a different nature topic through nature play, crafts, stories and hikes. Time is spent outdoors, weather permitting. Adult participation required. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Register for course #2805. 10-11:30 a.m. **CC**

28 **MONTGOMERY COUNTY CAMP AND SUMMER FUN EXPO.** Don't forget to visit the City of Rockville's booth. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hilton Hotel Rockville, 1750 Rockville Pike.

28 **19th ANNUAL GLENVIEW MANSION WEDDING EXPO.** More than 30 vendor exhibits and samples, including catering, wedding cakes, photography, musical entertainment, floral arrangement, tenting services, event planning and more! Sunday. 1-4 p.m. **GM**

28 **OUTDOOR SCIENCE CLUB: ANIMAL TRACKS & TRAILS.** For ages 6-8 years. Young scientists investigate a variety of science topics through hands-on activities and time spent exploring the forest preserve. What goes bump in the night? Explore animals who are active while we are asleep. Spaces are limited. Advanced registration recommended. Register for course #2817. 1:30-3 p.m. **CC**

29 **DISTRICT 17 NIGHT IN ANNAPOLIS.** See article on page 3. Buses depart City Hall for Annapolis at 4:30 p.m., return at 9:30 p.m. **CH**

Find the current recreation guide at www.rockvillemd.gov/guide. Sign up and search for courses, programs, classes and more at www.rockvillemd.gov/register. Enter the course number listed on the calendar entry to see more details and to register.

R = Residents • NR = Nonresidents • MEM = Member • NM = Nonmember

FOR MORE INFO AND UP-TO-DATE EVENT LISTINGS: WWW.ROCKVILLEMD.GOV/CALENDAR.ASPX

Voting by Mail

continued from pg. 1...

mail in special elections and for absentee ballots.

If voting by mail is adopted, the board recommends that the city launch an outreach campaign with a minimum of four pieces of communication to voters. Such direct-mail outreach would generate ballots returned from addresses where voters no longer live, allowing the city to identify voter information that needs to be revised on voter rolls, Neuman said.

While more would be spent on postage, voting by mail would reduce election costs overall, with savings on equipment, personnel and training, she said.

Find video of the Nov. 6 presentation and Mayor and Council discussion at www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter. ❖

Martin Luther King Day Celebration

continued from pg. 1...

Award honors a Rockville high school student for advancing the goals and dreams of King. The F. Michael Taff Award honors an individual, business or organization from Rockville for improving the lives of people with disabilities. The commission will also recognize the winners of its 2017 Student Multimedia Contest highlighting human rights issues.

The celebration is free and open to all ages. A reception will follow. Learn more and find video of the 2017 celebration at www.rockvillemd.gov/mlk. For information about access, call the city's Americans with Disabilities Act coordinator at 240-314-8108. ❖

Rockville January Closures

continued from pg. 1...

- The **Rockville Senior Center**, including the fitness room, is closed Sundays and will be closed Jan. 1 and 15.
- The **Rockville Swim and Fitness Center** will be open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 31, closed Jan. 1 and open Jan. 15. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/swimcenter for lap and program schedules.

Parking fees at city-owned meters will be suspended on Jan. 1 and 15.

For more information, call 240-314-5000 or visit www.rockvillemd.gov. ❖



LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE CITY ON ROCKVILLE 11
www.youtube.com/cityofrockville

Rockville's 2017 Financial Reports

continued from pg. 3...

- services.
- The city's financial structure, including governmental funds, such as the general fund and the capital projects fund, and enterprise funds.
- The overall financial health of the city.
- The city's capital investments and debt.
- Property taxes and utility rates, including how to read tax and utility bills.

The PAFR and CAFR are available at www.rockvillemd.gov/financialreports. To view the presentation to the Mayor and Council, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/AgendaCenter and select the television icon next to the Dec. 11 meeting listing.

To learn more, call the Finance Department at 240-314-8400. ❖

Plan Your Summer with the 2018 Camp Guide

Available Jan. 12 Online and in Print

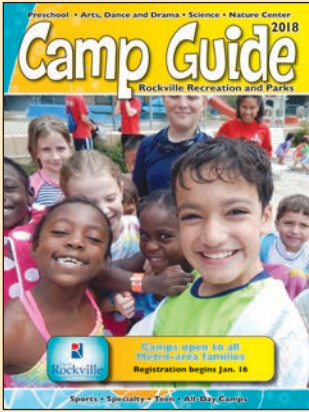
Look for Rockville's 2018 Camp Guide, due out Friday, Jan. 12, to plan ahead for that long summer break. This year's guide is available from City Hall, community centers and other facilities, as well as online as a PDF at www.rockvillemd.gov/recreation.

More than 60 camps available include the traditional all-day, all-summer break Summer Blast program, which runs from 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. each day and is hosted at four sites throughout the city, as well as specialty camps that explore robotics, the arts, sports, science, dancing, nature, theater, parkour and many other experiences for kids age 3-16.

Single- and multi-week options are available. Camps are open to residents and non-residents. Registration begins Tuesday, Jan. 16. Camps begin Monday, June 18.

To learn more about camps around the city, drop by the Rockville Recreation and Parks Department's booth at the Montgomery County Camp and Summer Fun Expo, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 28, at the Hilton Washington DC/Rockville Hotel and Executive Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Pike.

Visit www.rockvillemd.gov/camps for more information.



Feel the Love in February at These Special Valentine's Events

Valentine's Day is Wednesday, Feb. 14 and Rockville's community centers are feeling the love with several events for you and your family to take part in, and, of course, lots of chocolate.

To register where the event has a course number, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/registration.

Annual Heart-to-Heart Family Valentine's Dance: 7-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center, 12920 Twinbrook Parkway.

Enjoy a red-hot night! Families and friends spend time together making Valentine crafts and dancing as a DJ spins favorites. Refreshments sold by Twinbrook Elementary School PTA. \$4 per person at the door.

Valentine's Day Chocolate Extravaganza: 6-9:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10. Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive.

The everything-chocolate

family event. Make a valentine, enjoy the chocolate bar, play chocolate bingo, make a card. See Disney's magic movie of Belle and the Beast on the big screen, 7:30-9 p.m., ages 2 and older. Register with course #3613 or pay at the door: \$4R/\$5NR.

Little Hearts Valentines: 1-3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11. Lincoln Park Community Center, 357 Frederick Ave.

A fun-filled Valentine's event: make cards, read a book, decorate cookies and more. A small snack will be provided. Adult assistance required. Ages 2-6. Register with course #3681. \$10R/\$13NR.

Tiny Tot Valentine's Day Party: 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13. Thomas Farm Community Center, 700 Falls Grove Drive.

Enjoy a morning of Valentine's Day fun. Make a valentine, play games and visit with friends. Wear red to celebrate the day! Register with course #2761, \$3R/\$4NR. ✚

Volunteer in Rockville: Ways to Give Back in 2018

You: Have spare time and want to give back. Us: Need volunteers. Whether it's tutoring, phone answering, ushering, mentoring or working with animals. The city has numerous opportunities to contribute so you can make that New Year's resolution happen, or if you're a teen wanting to earn service learning hours.

Find more opportunities to volunteer, contact information and an application form at www.rockvillemd.gov/volunteer. Here are some ways to help:

At Rockville's three community centers...

Assist with after-school programs during the school year with various activities and tutoring. Front desk volunteers answer phones and do light office work. School community service volunteers do various jobs.

At the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre...

Assist as ushers during performances and as parking attendants on performances with overflow parking.

At Glenview Mansion...

Greet mansion visitors, conduct tours and perform other duties such as light office work.

As an inclusion companion...

Assist children and adults with disabilities to successfully integrate into recreation programs such as gymnastics, crafts, karate, swimming, sports or outdoor activities.

At Croydon Creek Nature Center...

Greet and assist visitors, help with animal care and share your expertise to help with unique projects. Assist inside and outdoors, weekdays and weekends. All volunteers must be at least 14 years old. To be considered for a volunteer position you



must complete the nature center's volunteer application at www.rockvillemd.gov/croydoncreek.

As a mentor...

Be a friend to an elementary school-aged youth in a structured setting. Mentoring takes place after school for one hour per week during the school year at the school site.

As a recreation class volunteer...

Help with classes before and after school and on weekends for preschool and elementary school children in activities such as arts and crafts, dance, music, sports and games.

At the Senior Center...

Assist with office support, computer classes, in the thrift or gift shop or fitness room, as part of the garden committee, with bingo, or translation or transportation to medical appointments.

At the Swim and Fitness Center...

Assist at the front desk answering phones, or enjoy a hands-on experience helping to teach swim lessons. Training is provided for those interested in teaching water aerobics. Many other opportunities are available for weekdays and weekends.

As a youth sports volunteer...

Work with elementary and middle school children in sports and team league play after school and on evenings and weekends. ✚

Time for Toddlers

Monday Morning Moms

Mondays, 10 a.m.-noon

Parents and preschoolers enjoy play equipment in the gym.

Twinbrook Community Recreation Center
240-314-8830

Tiny Tots Drop-In

Tuesdays, (and Thursdays, Jan. 4-Feb. 22)

10 a.m.-noon

Valentines Day Party, Feb. 13

Thomas Farm Community Center
240-314-8840

Toddler Time

Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-noon

Parents and preschoolers enjoy play equipment in the gym.

Lincoln Park Community Center
240-314-8780

Little Acorns

Select Thursdays

10-11 a.m.

(Pre-registration required)

Croydon Creek Nature Center
240-314-8770

How You Helped the Holiday Drive, by the Numbers

Rockville's 2017 Holiday Drive made Thanksgiving and the December holiday season special for neighbors in need.

In November, the drive:

- Provided Thanksgiving meals to 483 families, including more than 1,600 individuals.
- Hosted a Thanksgiving meal for 105 seniors.

In December, the drive served:

- 306 families.
- 437 children aged 10 and under.
- 175 children aged 11 to 17.
- 75 senior or adult-only households.

The drive distributed:

- 874 toys.
- 231 board games and stuffed animals.
- 611 books.
- 437 stocking stuffers.
- Giant gift card referrals to 268 adult-only or senior households.
- Target gift card referrals to 360 teens.

In addition, gifts tailored to the needs of 67 families, including 118 adults and 143 children, were distributed through the family sponsorship program.

Learn more at www.rockvillemd.gov/holiday drive or by calling Community Services at 240-314-8310. ✚



Get Into It

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Councilmembers
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VIRGINIA D. ONLEY
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
MARK PIERZCHALA

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Questions, Concerns or Ideas?

Reach out to Rockville City Manager Rob DiSpirito at rdspirito@rockvillemd.gov or 240-314-8102.



BACK IN THE DAY... The Jan. 3, 1985 edition of "Rockville Reports" looked back a couple of weeks to Dec. 15, when the Metro finally came to the city. According to the story, "opening ceremonies, banners, balloons, and free rides" marked the "long-awaited day." Mayor Viola Hovsepian spoke during the ceremony at the Rockville station.